

## Message Text

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APPROVED BY EUR:JGLOWENSTEIN  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: LUNS' PROPOSAL FOR "PILOT" DISCUSSIONS IN COUNCIL

REF: USNATO 1369

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TENTATIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO LUNS TO CAUTIOUSLY EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF HIS SUGGESTION MORE FULLY WITH PERMREPS IN INFORMAL FORUM OF PERMREPS LUNCH. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT WISH TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO SUPPORT OF HIS IDEA AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, AND PREFER TO HAVE A BETTER IMPRESSION OF THE REACTIONS OF OTHER ALLIES BEFORE DOING SO.

2. FYI: WE SEE THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE PITFALLS IN PURSUIT OF LUNS' SUGGESTION:

A) ANOTHER ROUND OF DISCUSSION OF THE PROCEDURES FOR NATO CONSULTATIONS COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THE BEST APPROACH AT THIS POINT MAY WELL BE AN AD HOC ONE IN WHICH  
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THERE IS NO AGREED FORMAT FOR, OR LIMITATION ON, NAC CONSULTATIONS, AND UNDER WHICH SUBJECTS FOR CONSULTATIONS "FLOW FROM EVENTS," AS CANADIAN PERMREP HAS PUT IT. THIS SEEMS TO FIT BETTER WITH FRENCH VIEWS, AND HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN FORTHCOMING CONSULTATION ON EASTERN EUROPE.

REOPENING A DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURES WHICH WILL ALMOST

INEVITABLY PRODUCE DISAGREEMENT, COULD HAVE A  
NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDING ON  
SUCH AN AD HOC APPROACH.

B) WE DO NOT WISH TO POSE ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE FOR THE  
FRENCH, AND THUS TO OBLIGE THEM TO DISAGREE. PURSUIT OF  
LUNS' IDEA COULD FORCE THE FRENCH TO RESTATE THEIR  
POSITION OF PRINCIPLE ON THE LIMITATIONS OF NATO CONSUL-  
TATIONS OR ON REPRESENTATION FROM CAPITALS.

C) WE WOULD NOT WISH IDENTIFICATION OF "PILOT COUNTRIES"  
FOR ISSUES WHICH HAVE A LOCALIZED INTEREST WITHIN NATO  
TO SERVE AS AN EXCUSE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES TO OPT OUT OF  
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN DISCUSSION OF SUCH ISSUES. THERE  
IS ALREADY A TENDENCY IN THIS DIRECTION AMONG THE  
ALLIES, E.G., THE NORDIC MEMBERS' INCLINATION TO VIEW  
MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS AS BEING OF NO CONCERN TO THEM,  
AND VICE VERSA. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO ENCOURAGE SUCH A  
TENDENCY, EVEN BY IMPLICATION. END FYI.

3. BEARING OUR CAVEATS IN MIND, YOU MAY SUPPORT FURTHER  
INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF LUNS' SUGGESTION AMONG PERMREPS.  
SHOULD FURTHER DISCUSSION REVEAL ANY OF THE ABOVE PITFALLS  
AS A SERIOUS OBSTACLE, HOWEVER, WE WOULD PREFER TO  
GRACEFULLY PUT LUNS' PROPOSAL ASIDE "FOR THE TIME BEING."

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## Message Attributes

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